

REMARKS**35 USC § 112(2)**

It is submitted that the amended claims will remove the objections for indefiniteness. The parentheses regarding "alkali metals", "alkaline earth metals", "transition metals", "main group elements" and "f elements" have been removed from claim 1 and 12 in order to clarify the subject matter sought.

35 USC § 102

US-A-4856939 (Sterzel) discloses a method for producing amorphous silicone nitride powder. Relevant gaseous molecules are reacted with a nitrogen containing molecule in order to provide an amorphous powder. The Applicant still withholds that this contrasts clearly with the present invention.

Glass is considered to be an amorphous material, in similarity with the amorphous powder of Sterzel. However, glass is only one type of amorphous material; other exist, e.g. the amorphous powder of Sterzel. Thus, even though a glass material is amorphous, the reverse is not necessarily true, i.e. glass is not equal to amorphous material, but a subtype of amorphous material.

A difference between amorphous glass according to the present invention and the amorphous powder of Sterzel is that the glass material of the present invention can be brought above the glass transition temperature in a reversible manner, whereas the amorphous powder will crystallise upon heating in an irreversible manner, as a result of the different physico-chemical properties of the glass and the amorphous powder, respectively. Hence, the subject matter of Sterzel does not anticipate the claims of the present invention, being limited to a glass material.

US-A-6242132 (Neudecker et al.) discloses a silicon-tin oxynitride glass composition. Sn is excluded from the composition of claim 1, and after the clarification that was made to claim 1 (removal of the parenthesis of "main group elements"), it is argued by the Applicant that the subject matter of the claims of the present invention is non-obvious in view of Neudecker et al.

In the event there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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